

*Sisters
in
Crime*



Heart of Texas
Chapter
www.HoTXSinC.org

HOTSHOTS!
November 2008

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Sisters in Crime is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to promote mysteries written by women and to combat discrimination against them. Speakers include published mystery authors and technical experts who help writers craft better mysteries, and readers enjoy what they read. Meetings are free and open to all.

For more information, check out the Sisters in Crime website at www.hotxsinc.org

Sunday, November 9, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Gary Payne
The Capital City Mystery Players

Westlake Barnes & Noble bookstore
located in The Village at Westlake shopping center
at the southeast corner of Loop 360 and Bee Cave Road
512.328.3155

A Murderer is on the loose...

A murder has been committed and the suspects have assembled. Is it sassy Austin cross-dresser Leslie Lotion? Self-made San Antonio thousandaire Randy Bull? Or San Marcos shop-aholic socialite De De Von Strudel? Can you guess whodunit?



For 15 years Gary Payne has been Austin's primary purveyor of the theatrical form known as murder mystery dinner theatre. Since 1991, his **Capital City Mystery Players** have done dozens of shows for private parties and corporations, as well as public venues, such as the Austin Marriott, the Driskill Hotel, and the Spaghetti Warehouse.

Join us on Sunday, November 9, when Gary answers all of our questions about the Capital City Mystery Players of Austin, and perhaps even teaches us "How to Murder a Millionaire."

This meeting is free and open to anyone who enjoys writing or reading Mystery or True Crime.

Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart. - Seneca



Warm wishes for a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving!

December Spotlight Member

Kathy Borich, HoTxSinC past president and author of **Appetite for Murder: A Mystery Lover's Cookbook**, will be spotlighted in the December edition of **HOTSHOTS!**



News and Announcements

Important announcement from the President

After 14 years it's time. Our local HoTxSinC dues will increase by \$5.00 to \$20.00 a year.

The good news is that if you renew before 1/1/09, you can renew at the previous rate of \$15.00!

Dues may be paid at one of our Second Sunday meetings or you may send it to:

Sarah Ann Robertson
Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter
Post Office Box 4939
Austin, Texas 78765

Thank you for your support of our chapter.

With National SinC, HoTxSinC co-sponsored a booth at the Texas Book Festival November 1-2.

Dave Ciabrone and **Sylvia Dickey Smith** coordinated this project for our Chapter. Members were offered the opportunity to promote and sell their books. Participating member authors included Dave Ciabrone, Jan Grape, Joan Lipton Hall, Sharon Karn, Weslynn McCallister and Sylvia Dickey Smith. We had a great booth this year, and lots of fun!

Texas Mystery Month

The purpose of Texas Mystery Month, held each May, is to spotlight Texas Mystery Authors. As a community service event, all Texas Mystery Authors are invited to participate, and do not have to be members of Sisters in Crime.

Activities include presentations, signings, radio interviews, workshops, the occasional cocktail party and The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project. Meetings of the Texas Mystery Month Committee normally take place once a month at a place mutually agreed upon.

Texas Mystery Month Volunteer Opportunities

Author Committee

- * Updates list of Texas Mystery Authors
- * Contacts Texas Mystery Authors and invites them to participate
- * Helps match authors with venues

Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project

- * Updates contact list for soliciting entries
- * Invites Aspiring Mystery Writers to participate
- * Recruits Mentor Authors
- * Helps match Aspiring Mystery Writers and Mentor Authors
- * Helps plan Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on May 17, 2009

Bookstore/Venue Committee

- * Updates list of bookstores and other venues
- * Contacts bookstores/venues for participation
- * Helps match authors and bookstores/venues

Publicity Committee

- * Updates lists of contacts
- * Develops new sources
- * Prepares and sends News Releases
- * Keeps website updated
- * Keeps newsletter updated

Events Committee

- * Contacts previous Local Event Coordinators
- * Provides support for local events

Call for Officer Nominations for HoTxSinC for 2009

It's that time of year again. Below are job descriptions for each of the positions we would like to fill before the end of the year. We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of these positions, or nominating someone else.

If you plan to nominate someone for office, please be sure you have permission prior to submitting the nomination.

President: (The Vice-President for Programs is also President-Elect and automatically moves up to this position.)

- * Contact person and spokesperson for HoTxSinC
- * Presides at meetings
- * Supports officers and committee chairs

Vice-President for Programs and President-Elect:

- * Plans, implements and provides follow-up for programs for the year – including monthly meetings, Annual August Indoor Picnic, and Annual Holiday Party in December
- * Supports the President as needed
- * Moves up to the Presidency the next year

Treasurer/Membership:

- * Maintains checking account and pays bills
- * Maintains Membership Directory
- * Maintains inventory of cups/t-shirts/tote bags

Publicity:

- * Maintains publicity contact lists for monthly meetings and special events
- * Issues News Releases for monthly meetings and special events
- * Distributes **HOTSHOTS!** and other information of interest to members

Newsletter Editor of *HOTSHOTS!*

- * Solicits articles and items of interest for members
- * Works with officers to include announcements
- * Produces monthly newsletter

Library Coordinator

- * Houses and maintains the book collection and accepts new books as offered
- * Keeps the website updated as to contents of the collection
- * Provides reviews of the books for the membership

Historian

- * Maintains collection of items showing the history of HoTxSinC
- * Accepts new items
- * Presents reports as requested

Webmaven

- * Maintains the www.hotxsinc.org website
- * Adds and updates material as requested
- * Provides reports as requested

Texas Book Festival HoTxSinC Booth

Coordinator:

- * Contacts National SinC, submits grant request to pay for TBF booth fee, writes report
- * Contacts Texas Book Festival and submits request for TBF booth
- * Contacts member authors and volunteers about participating and sets up schedules
- * Provides publicity info to Publicity Chair & Newsletter Editor
- * Sets up booth, coordinates author and volunteer participation, takes down booth
- * Forwards raffle/sign-up info to Membership

Texas Mystery Month Coordinator:

- * Presides at meetings
- * Coordinates Committee Chairs for Authors, Venues, Publicity, Events, Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project
- * Provides reports as requested

The election will be held at the regular December meeting (12/14/08). Nominations will also be taken from the floor at that time.

Those nominated thus far are:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| President: | Sylvia Dickey Smith |
| Vice-President for Programs/ President-elect: | Dave Ciabrone |
| Membership/Treasurer: | Sarah Ann Robertson |
| Newsletter Editor: | Micqui Miller |
| Publicity: | Joyce Arquette |
| Web Maven: | Linda Bingham |
| Library Coordinator: | Jennifer Old |
| Historian: | Betsy Tyson |
| Texas Mystery Month Coordinator: | Sarah Ann Robertson |
| Texas Book Festival Booth Coordinator: | Dave Ciabrone |

Joyce Arquette November 2008 Spotlight Author

We all know Joyce from her regular attendance at HoTxSinC meetings, and her e-mail messages sent throughout the month to keep us abreast of important events geared to mystery and true crime fans.

We also know Joyce for her quick wit and wry sense of humor, but now you'll get to know the "real" Joyce, straight from the source--Joyce! Sit back, relax and enjoy this one-on-one visit with HoTxSinC's own Publicity Chair Joyce Arquette!

MM: *Joyce, we all know you as the HoTxSinC's Publicity Chair. Did you accept the position because of a background in PR? If so, would I you like to share some of the special moments in your career.*

JA: I know absolutely nothing about PR. Whoever gave me the assignment (think it was Sarah Ann) must have been desperate. I think I just volunteered to do something to help.

MM: *How long have you been a member of Sisters In Crime? and the Heart of Texas Chapter?*

JA: Probably six or seven years or eight years. I started when we met at the LCRA building. Somebody told me about it, and I just started going.

MM: *Many of us are mystery fans first and writers second, or vice versa. Where do you fit into the mix?*

JA: I have written a mystery but do not intend to do another one. When I was working, I had a list of things I would do when I retired. Writing a mystery, with Kerrville as the focus place, was one of my goals. And now I've done it.

MM: *Would you like to tell us about any writing projects you're involved in?*

JA: I'm writing another book titled "A Handbook for Social Workers and Other Do-Gooders". It's actual stories that I, and former coworkers who are recounting stories for me, remember from the social work days. Some are funny; some are sad. All are unique.

MM: *Are you published?*

JA: No. I haven't really worked at it.

MM: *I discovered while browsing the Net, that there's a darling little fellow named Stevie who holds a very special place in your heart. Would you like to share how you found each other, and how your relationship is growing?*

JA: I had a Shar-Pei that died, and my kids in New Mexico, found Stevie for me at the Shar-Pei Rescue. He had been neglected and abused. He is now healthy and spoiled.

MM: *How many pets do you have? Do you all live in relative harmony?*

JA: I have the Shar-Pei and a 95-pound yellow Lab named Bonnie that I've raised from a puppy. We sleep together at night and walk together every morning. And I watch the Dog Whisperer so I'll know what to do with

them. Wish I had somebody like the Dog Whisperer/Husband Whisperer when I was trying to train husbands.

MM: *Tell us about your family—siblings, children, grandchildren?*

JA: I have three sons, one daughter, and two adult grandchildren. I have a brother in San Diego with multiple children. I am hoping for a great grandchild, but my granddaughter is apparently doing more important things. Can't say that I blame her.

MM: *Tell us more about yourself. Are you Texas born and bred, or like so many of us, transplants from across the nation?*

JA: I was born in Kerrville (about 100 miles from Austin in the hill country). My mother was born in Kerrville, and my grandmother was born in Kerr County as was her mother. I come from a long line of Texans.



News & Announcements - Continued from Page 3

Georgetown Library's Writers College Update

HoTxSinC members **David Ciambrone, D.Sc.** and **Sylvia Dickey Smith** have completed teaching their six week mystery writing course at the **Georgetown Public Library Writer's college** to a large group of aspiring mystery authors.

On Tuesday, October 28, at 7 p.m., Dr. Ciambrone will teach a class in poisons and one in forensics at the Georgetown Library Writer's College. On Tuesday, November 4, he will teach **Murder 101** at the college at the library at 7:00 PM as well.

Aspiring mystery writers are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$20 per session and half the proceeds will go to the library.

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

"**Spalding University's** four-semester, brief-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing combines superb instruction with unparalleled flexibility. At the beginning of each semester, students and faculty work together at a 10-day residency (in Louisville or abroad), after which they return home to correspond one-on-one through an exchange of 5 packets between the student and the faculty mentor for the rest of the semester. Study fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for children and young adults, screenwriting, or playwriting. Request brochure FA35 by email: mfa@spalding.edu, by phone: (800) 896-8941, ext 2423, or visit their website at: www.spalding.edu/mfa."

Upcoming Chapter Programs

December 14 - Author **Woody Falgoux** will present a program on **The Book Marketing Pyramid: Product, Publicity & Distribution**.

January 11, 2009 - **Orange, TX Chief of Police Sam Kittrell** will present **CSI Mayberry: Big city policing in small town America**.

February 8 - **Renowned Forensic Artist Lois Gibson**, named in the **Guinness Book of Records as the World's Most Successful Forensic Artist**.

March 8 - Author **Vallie Fletcher Taylor** will present **Putting the Paranormal in Your Mysteries**.

April 12 - Author **Micqui Miller** will lead a panel discussion on e-books, entitled, **Go Green! Read (or Write) an e-Mystery and Save a Tree!**

2009 Texas Mystery Month

May 10 - **T. B. A.**

May 17 - **Barbara Burnett Smith**
Aspiring Writers Event

For more information regarding the 2009 Texas Mystery Month and volunteer opportunities, please see Page 2.

June 14 - **P. J. Nunn**, founder of **Breakthrough Promotions**, will present a program on **What You Don't Know About Book Promotion**.

**FRIDAY,
November 21, 2008**
is the deadline for News,
Reviews, Announcements and
Articles for the
DECEMBER 2008 edition of
HOTSHOTS!



Send all information, including digital copies of book covers and photos, to **Micqui Miller** at micquim@yahoo.com. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Spotlight Member - Continued from Page 4

MM: *Do you live in Austin? Is your family here, too?*

JA: I live near Mansfield Dam, and I have one son who lives here as well as my grandson and granddaughter. The rest have decided to civilize other parts of the country. My daughter lives in Hico, and the other two sons are in New Mexico. Yes, Hico is in Texas.

MM: *Do you have any hobbies or activities you're passionate about that you'd like to share?*

JA: I am a potter – have been for years and used to sell ceramics but just pot for fun now. I use a wheel and also do some sculpture. I also enjoy playing bridge. And definitely reading mysteries.

MM: *Do you work outside your home? If so, would you like to share what you do?*

JA: I don't even work inside my home but have done volunteer work at Lake Travis Library and currently work at my son's business (doing office work) when needed. I am a volunteer usher at the Paramount Theatre, Zach, and Palace Theatre in Georgetown. I don't usher out of the goodness of my heart; I love theatre and get to see lots for free.



L to R: Stevie and Bonnie

MM: *It seems that so many of the members I've interviewed for HOTSHOTS! in the last year are associated in some way with the performing arts as well as writing and reading mysteries. Do you sing, or dance, play an instrument or act? Are you a playwright?*

JA: Sorry to mess up the statistics, but I am only a very talented spectator.

MM: *What other hobbies to do pursue?*

JA: I like to hang out at biker bars and chase young good-looking men, but age has caught up with me. I wouldn't know what to do with one if I caught him and can't handle more than one drink any more. So I just stick to senior centers. And, I am taking a genealogy class and trying to figure out how they do that.

MM: *What is the most exciting thing that ever happened to you?*

JA: Hopefully, it's yet to come.

MM: *Are you an indoor person, or do you prefer the outdoors despite the sometimes brutal Central Texas heat?*

JA: Growing up in the country, I rode horses, water skied, swam, and taught my children do all of those activities. Heat didn't bother me then, but it gets worse and worse. When I am outside now, I whine and complain constantly.

MM: *You devote a lot of time to HoTxSinC. Are there other causes you're passionate about that you'd like share?*

JA: Animal rescues and animal shelters get all of my monetary contributions. I've always been an animal lover and have always had several dogs.

MM: *What's your favorite spectator sport?*

JA: The Olympics. Both summer and winter ones.

MM: *Your favorite movie(s) of all times?*

JA: Chicago

MM: *Your favorite music – the classic, pop, country, etc.?*

JA: Opera and Blue Grass.

MM: *Your favorite book?*

JA: Anything by Agatha Christie..

MM: *If you watch TV, what is your favorite program? Your favorite TV star?*

JA: CSI Vegas and CSI Miami. I love them both. No favorite stars.

MM: *Do you like to cook? What is your favorite kind of food, and your favorite dish?*

JA: I hate cooking and love anything cooked by someone else. Particularly Italian or Mexican.

MM: *Will you be cooking Thanksgiving dinner? Or will you be a lucky guest?*

JA: I cook for my son, grandkids and their families, daughter and her husband. The one time a year I actually cook. And then they all owe me for the rest of the year.

MM: *Have you started this year's holiday gift shopping?*

JA: Oh, is it that time already? I'm still working on last year.



Fireside Reviews

The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing By Myra Calvani & Anne K. Edwards

**Review by
Irene Watson for Readers View
Austin Texas
Awarded ★★★★★**

Ever wonder why books you found lacking received great reviews? Knew that you could write a better one? Ever thought about doing book reviews for fun and profit? Then this is the book for you.

Myra Calvani and Anne K. Edwards certainly produced a much-needed reference book that covers all aspects of becoming a book reviewer. Their concise narrative covers areas such as defining a book review and explaining the difference between it and a book report and press release; the don'ts; tips; ownership; as well as many other pertinent concerns. They also include resources and how libraries, book clubs, booksellers, etc. are influenced by reviewers.

As an owner of a book review service I was very interested what other reviewers had to say about the industry and what advice they give potential reviewers. Calvani is an author as well as a freelance reviewer and I'm sure much of the information came from her own experience although throughout the book there are excerpts of advice from other known online reviewers. The authors of "The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing" are very much to the point and it doesn't look like they missed anything.

Although this book is targeting potential reviewers, I encourage authors looking for reviews to peruse the book. The information about reviews, specifically if it's a negative review is enlightening. As well, there is an appendix with a list of online reviewers. Although the list is somewhat dated, it is a very thorough list. And, I don't mean dated in a negative way but I encourage the authors to also research the net for new services that recently emerged or reviewers that didn't make the list.

I do recommend "The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing" as a must-have resource guide. Calvani and Edwards present a well-written gold-mine to potential reviewers as well as a source of information for experienced reviewers and authors.

THE SLIPPERY ART OF BOOK REVIEWING

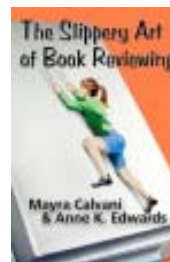
By Myra Calvani & Anne K. Edwards

Publisher: Twilight Times Books

Released: June 2008

ISBN-10: 1933353228

ISBN-13: 978-1933353227



Spotlight Member - Continued from Page 6

MM: *What is your favorite dessert?*

JA: Margaritas. On the rocks. With salt.

MM: *What was your all-time favorite vacation?*

JA: Many years ago we visited my in-laws who had a ranch in Peru, and we saw places and things tourists never see.

MM: *If you could visit anywhere in the world, what city or country would be your first choice?*

JA: Probably Ireland or Scotland. Why? Ancestors came from those countries.

MM: *What is your favorite color?*

JA: Orange (and no, I am not a UT fan – I am an Aggie fan). I just like the color.

MM: *A questions from the past: what is your sign?*

JA: Virgo

MM: *If money were no object, what type of vehicle would you drive?*

JA: One with a chauffeur.

MM: *If you found a genie in a bottle, what would be your three wishes?*

JA: Health, wealth, and wisdom. And a new Corvette. Oops, that's four. Forget the wisdom. With health and wealth, who needs wisdom?

MM: *How long have you been writing?*

JA: Since I retired nine years ago.

MM: *What made you decide to embark on your first project? And what was it?*

JA: It was on my list of things to do when I retired. And I had a good friend, a former editor, who helped and encouraged me.

MM: *Are you in a critique group? How often do you meet? Do you meet in person?*

JA: I used to take Creative Writing through Lifetime Learning – it was a critique group but is no longer in existence.

MM: *Do you prefer mysteries, suspense, or a mix of both?*

JA: I do not like blood and guts and prefer whodunits.

MM: *What other genres do you find irresistible?*

JA: None that I have found.

We've all read mysteries, seen plays and movies where our canine friends play an important role in discovering whodunit.

For our author members who may be thinking about adding a furry friend to their work, and a Shar-Pei after reading Joyce's comments, here are basic facts about the breed and photos guaranteed to make you say, "Awww!"

Facts about Shar-Pei Dogs

from www.wikipedia.org

Country of origin: China

Weight: Male: 55-65 lbs.; Female: 40-55 lbs.

Height: 18-20 inches

Coat: Horse-coat (unusual but regaining ground), rough to the touch, extremely prickly and off-standing, like a shark in one direction soft in the other harsh; Brush-coat, with longer hair and a smoother feel; and Bear-coat (rare, and not recognized by the AKC; thought to be a result of possible addition of Chow Chows in the breed)

Color: red, red fawn, five point red, black, black silver sables, black bronze sables, sables, cream, blue, cream dilute, apricot dilute, chocolate, chocolate dilute, lilac, isabelle (silver shading on a dilute colored dog),

Litter size: 4-6 puppies

Life span: 7-10 years

